



# ***Committee on Labor & Industry***

July 24, 2007 – 7:00 pm – **Agenda**

William Saltzman Ante-Chamber, Room 213 – Municipal Building

## **View Minutes**

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1. Written Motion, Councillors Alves & Koczera, requesting that the Committee on Commerce, Labor & Transportation meet with representatives of the North End Business District and the City Planner to inventory/evaluate and propose City-owned or Tax-titled properties in the North End area of, or adjacent to, Acushnet Avenue, which can be developed by the City of New Bedford to provide parking facilities for shoppers in the City's largest small business shopping district (the International Market Place) to help retain and improve retail business in the City. (Ref'd 1/1 1/01, tabled 10/12/04)

***INVITEES: Roseanne Medeiros, North End Business Association Executive Director; David Kennedy, City Planner***

2. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the City Council Committee on Labor and Industry meet with representatives of Comcast Corporation and the City's Cable Agent to explain why the City's Senior Center/Community Building does not currently have access to Cable services in light of the fact that our agreement with Comcast states that (Comcast) would provide such service to all public/community/senior service buildings as a condition of being awarded the City wide contract to provide Cable service. (Ref'd 7/15/04)

***INVITEES: Mary O 'Keefe, Comcast Government/Community Relations Senior Manager***

3. Written Motion, Councillors Koczera & Coelho, asking that the City Council Committee on Labor & Industry meet with John Martins, owner of the Lydia's Bakery on Acushnet Avenue, to discuss issues that he has in regard to the business(s), and, to find out what assistance the City may be able to provide to him in these endeavors; and further, that the representatives from the Mayor's Office and the Economic Development Council be present at this meeting. (Ref'd 3/9/06, tabled 6/29/06)

***INVITEES: John Martins, Lydia's Bakery Owner; Nelson Ostiguy, Rep. Of the Mayor; Matthew A. Morrissey, Economic Development Council Executive Director***

4. Written Motion, Councillor Pimental, requesting that we ask the Mayor what his plans are with respect to hiring another Shellfish Warden; and further, if he plans to hire one, when will the person come on board, due to the fact that the Family Permits for Shellfishing are being issued; however, the families cannot make use of the Permits because there are no Shellfish Wardens on duty after 4:00 p.m.; therefore, why are "Family Shellfishing Permits" issued if they can't be used to shellfish by most families, since it is usually after 4:00 p.m. when the shellfishing takes place. (Ref'd 5/23/06)

***INVITEES: Nelson Ostiguy, Rep. Of the Mayor; Brad Bourque, Shellfish Warden***

5. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, asking that the New Bedford City Council request the Administration seek to encourage the New Bedford Industrial Park Foundation and CSX rail system to move more quickly and to encourage them to expedite their plans to develop a/the proposed rail transfer facility at our local Business Park, in light of the fact that many local companies are now forced to use Rail Transfer Facilities in Brockton and Middleboro; and further, that the Committee on Labor & Industry invite all parties concerned to a meeting to see what the City can do to expedite, the rail development to support our local business. (Ref'd 2/8/07)

***INVITEES: Tom Davis, Executive Director, New Bedford Industrial Park Foundation; David***

***Kennedy, City Planner; Matthew A. Morrissey, Executive Director, Economic Development Council***

6. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the Committee on Labor & Industry meet with Steve Oliver, 160 Aquidneck Street, to review his concerns as to the number of inappropriate/illegal signs, which are currently overtaking the City and to, once again, visit the issue of street vendors that may be having a direct, negative effect on businesses that pay taxes to the City and what the City Council can do to support our tax-paying small businesses in these difficult economic times. (Ref'd 5/12/05)

***Chairman suggests to "Receive and place on file" the following items:***

7. Communication, Chef Henry Bousquet, 7 South Sixth Street, New Bedford, MA to City Council introducing THE DOWNTOWN MARKETING COLLABORATIVE (DMC), and requesting serious consideration of enclosed delineated issues by business owners in the Downtown area. (Ref'd 9/22/05)
8. Communication, Bradford K. Bourque, Shellfish Constable to Mr. David Whittaker, Senior Biologist for the Division of Marine Fisheries reporting the rainfall amount for March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and the CSO Reports, for 2006. (Ref'd 12/14/06)
9. Communication, Bradford K. Bourque, Shellfish Constable to Mr. David Whittaker, Senior Biologist for the Division of Marine Fisheries, reporting the rainfall amounts and CSO Reports for December of 2006, also January and February of 2007. (Ref'd 4/5/07)

***Chairman suggests "Following the recommended action" on the following items:***

10. Written Motion, Councillor Fortes, Requesting that the Committee on Labor and Industry explore the possibility of having a L.L. Bean Outlet store in the City of New Bedford, and further that a representative from L.L. Bean to be invited to said meeting. (Ref'd 10/28/04)
11. Written Motion, Councillor Pimental, asking that the Committee on Labor & Industry request Tourism/Marketing Director Arthur Motta to contact Clear Channel Billboards, requesting that, if they have any free space or unused Billboards, that they donate the space to the City of New Bedford to promote the City and City Events. (Ref'd 3/9/06, tabled 6/29/06)
12. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City Council go on record and send letters in support of Mayor Lang and Congressman Frank, to look at the Safety Regulations imposed on our fishermen, not only in New Bedford, but in the whole New England Area; further, that the City Council go on record in support of a safety-regulated suit, to be worn by all fishermen; further, that the City Council support our Fishing Fleet and Fishing Industry by requesting the U. S. Fishery Council, the governing body overseeing fishing, that Fishing Regulations be re-examined regarding limits on days out to sea, with an eye towards, but not limited to, catch limits rather than limiting days for fishing, since, in their present form, the rules encourage fishermen to venture out in unsafe conditions in order to earn a living; and further, that the possible use of a tracking device that can be strapped on and activated by each and every fisherman in a distress situation, clearly sending a beacon or a signal to the proper authorities that a boat is in distress and the fishermen are in trouble, which could be immediately tracked by our Coast Guard or other entities, be explored. (Ref'd 2/8/07)

***Chairman suggests "No further action" on the following items:***

13. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Transportation meet with a member of Governor Romney's Economic Development Team to discuss his initiative to attracting bio-technology business to Massachusetts, which will offer State TIFs, as well as funding for the cleaning of Brownfield areas within the Commonwealth as it appears this program is well suited for the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 9/22/03)
14. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the City Council Committee on Labor and Industry

meet with representatives of the “New Bedford Power Dredge Association,” as well as the Shellfish Warden, Harbor Master, a representative from SMAST, and area Shellfish Fishermen, to discuss a number of issues as outlined by the Association that have a direct effect on the power dredge program licensed by the City of New Bedford; and further, that the Committee review the results of the Harbor Trustee Grant Award which funded the recent shellfish relay program in our area. (Ref’d 5/13/04)

15. Written Motion, Councillor Fortes, requesting that the City Council look into replacing NSTAR for New Bedford’s electricity with a Municipal Electric Utility (referred to as a “Muni”) as other communities in Massachusetts have done which could save residents approximately 28% in their electricity bills. (Ref’d 3/22/05)
16. Communication, Antone Amaral, to Councillor Gomes, Padanaram Avenue residents request, RE: Swim Floats in front of Lots 112 and 122 on Map 1 7A. (Ref’d 8/17/06)
17. Written Motion, Councillor Pina, requesting that a mini-bus service be put into place to operate on Sunday’s, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or thereabout, where there is no public bus transportation available, to visit all the various Senior Housing Developments in the City and provide shuttle service to the mall, grocery stores, Faunce Corner Road and other Medical Facilities, etc. for our Senior Citizens who are homebound due to their lack of transportation. (Ref’d 3/23/06, tabled 6/26/06)